

Center for Mental Health Services

Child, Adolescent & Family Branch



NEW System of Care Website!

We are excited about our new website: www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov. Log on to access information and updates about the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch. The website includes a Resource Directory with contact information for all partners and grantees. We chose this website name because it serves as a focal point for information related to Systems Of Care. It also serves as a reminder that Systems of Care is not a program-it is a philosophy for how we address children's mental health in America. Contact **Hardy Stone at 240-276-1928** to provide input and feedback!

Welcome to our Branch Update,

a new feature designed to highlight activities happening at the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch (CAFB), and to focus on our continued journey to transform children's mental health care in America.

With the changing of the calendar year, it reminds us to pay attention to the importance of transitions. Together we will provide the leadership necessary to transform children's mental health systems. Together we can make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families.

We are looking forward to a strong partnership in 2006!

Hardy Stone, Ph.D.

Branch Chief

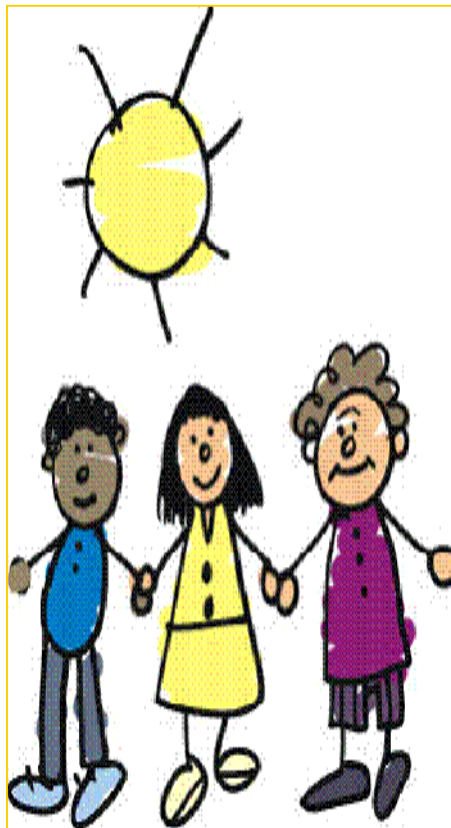
Debra L. Schepheimer

Deputy Branch Chief

Family Driven Care: The definition of "family driven care," focusing on principles and characteristics, is now available. Resources have been provided to our State-wide Family Network Grantees to assist in their grassroots efforts to provide education about the importance of family driven care. Transformation will only happen when consumers (including youth consumers) and families are leading the way!

New System of Care sites!

Welcome to 25 new system of care communities! Being selected to participate in the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program demonstrates a commitment to transform children's mental health care in your community and we offer our congratulations and support.



Circles of Care

We welcome the seven new Circles of

Care communities, which include three tribes, three urban Indian programs, and one tribal university. Technical Assistance (TA) continues to be provided by the National Indian Child Welfare Association, with TA on evaluation provided by the University of Colorado. For more information, please contact Jill Shepard Erickson at 240 276-1926.



Youth Guided Care

The National Youth Development Board (NYDB) helps guide decisions about services and system development. One of their activities was to develop a definition of youth guided care that reflects developmentally appropriate partnerships. Having youth at the table is a critical step towards transformation! Learn more about youth guided care on our new website.

Branch Staff: Lisa Adams, Jill Erickson, Sylvia Fisher, Michele Herman, Susan O'Rear, Lisa Rubenstein, Hardy Stone, Susan Stromberg, Liz Sweet (Branch Phone Number: 240-276-1980)

Winter, 2006

Health Care Disparities

Addressing health care disparities is a key component in our overall efforts to transform service delivery systems. Following up on the Cultural and Linguistic Competence Meeting held last winter, we now have:

- an action partnership with the National Alliance of Multiethnic Behavioral Health Associations (NAMBHA).
- a Branch cultural competence coordinator. Karen Francis from the American Institutes for Research provides leadership for our cultural competence efforts.
- an enhanced rural mental health initiative. In June, we held a Rural Mental Health Symposium to address service issues for youth and families who live in rural, remote and frontier regions of America.

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day May 8, 2006

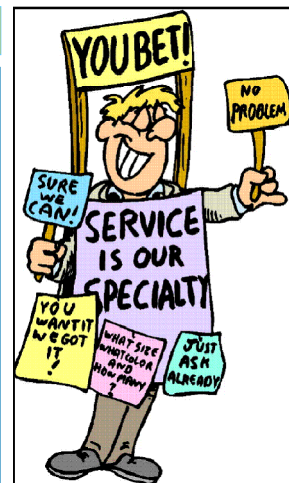
Mark your calendars now for the first National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Building on the highly successful Summit Day pilot held last year, this year's theme is "Thriving in the Community," and will showcase the artistic, athletic and academic talents of children and youth who experience mental health challenges. Using data to strengthen the message, the purpose of this event is to reinforce partnerships at the local level and draw national attention to the success systems of care have in promoting recovery and resilience. For more information please contact **Lisa Rubenstein at 240-276-1927.**

Creation of a Branch Logic Model and Communication Plan:

The staff at the Child, Adolescent & Family Branch developed a logic model and communication plan. You can access these documents on our new system of care website. We hope this provides a framework for you to understand our goals and desired outcomes, and demonstrates that these products can be both valuable and fun!

Continuous Quality Improvement

At the Branch, we are creating a benchmarking system to guide quality improvement efforts. We are asking our partners on the Council for Collaboration and Coordination (CCC) to review their own functions as we streamline efforts and work toward one coordinated technical assistance plan. Transformation is a continuous process, constantly evolving and seeking to improve. CQI is even more important as we come into compliance with the Federal statute that requires no more than 10% of the funds appropriated can be spent on technical assistance (TA). Historically, this limit has been exceeded, and we have recently implemented a corrective action plan, which means some belt-tightening across TA providers. It also means that we will have to modify activities. For example, some travel costs and expenses for various activities (e.g., Communication/Policy/Leadership Academy's, Specialty Conferences), may need to be shared by individuals and sites that are interested in participating. We are using this situation as an opportunity to review all TA expenditures, and to create more delineated roles and responsibilities.



www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov
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